



North Leeds District News

May 2008

From the DC

“Well I haven’t been to a campfire as good as that for ages!”.....Just one of the observations made by one of the young people on our joint St George’s Day Camp – unsolicited and heartfelt. I feel confident that many more enthusiastic comments will have been passed back to Leaders and Parents by Young People who were camping or visiting the camp between 25th and 27th April at Squirrel Wood.

North Leeds was represented by 7 of its Scout Groups, the remaining 10 having sent their apologies. As it happened, our representation was good and plentiful. The camp site could have accommodated more people but getting them all into and out of the event on Friday and Sunday could have been a struggle! Whilst events such as this might not be every Leader’s cup of tea, I would certainly encourage all to consider the opportunities they offer for youngsters to experience the wider fellowship that Scouting offers and to try to fit them into their programmes. Attendance at a County Event, such as ‘Tree Stomp’, or a District one, such as St George’s Day Camp, aren’t the only ways in which this can be achieved so please do look out for ways to widen horizons.

Our partnership with Pontefract and Castleford was formed at Tree Stomp and I am sure we will be running more events together.

To get back to St George’s Day Camp, the Campfire was but one highlight, where over 400 people made a fantastic sight enjoying some fun and companionship in our Promise renewal and sharing of entertainment both old and new. Others included the climbing tower, rodeo bull, mega slide, bungee trampoline, bungee run and bouncy castles. Face painting was on offer we thought for the Beavers, however the Explorer Scouts seemed to have the most fun with the camp theme of our National Saints winning the day!! Along with a wide range of skills and crafts these all took place on a lovely warm and dry Saturday.

Looking ahead in North Leeds we have the Cub Football Knockout competition on 18th May at Gledhow School, the District Cub Camp at Wike in July, the Scout Ultimate Frisbee Evening in June and the District Scout Water Activity Weekend at Aldwark in September. All of these are opportunities for you to join in and widen horizons and even gain one Quadrant of our District joining in Badge.

Carol

Beavers

The District Beaver Scout Fun and Sports Day will take place at Bramhope Scout Campsite on Sat May 17th from 10-3 on the theme of the Beaver Olympic Challenge. The cost will be £6 per Beaver. Beavers need to bring a packed lunch. Can Beaver Leaders please inform Christine Andrews (on 0113 2268260) as soon as possible if their Colony will be attending and give final numbers by May 10th

The District Beaver Scout Outing to Forbidden Corner will now take place on Sat Sept 13th (and not in June). Cost £12 per Beaver. Please advise Lynn Cuthbert (on 0113 2751988) if your Colony will be attending. We have only booked one coach - first come first served.

Beaver Leaders' meal out on Wed July 2nd will be a meal out at the Olive Tree, Far Headingley.

Nights Away Course 20th. - 22nd. June

There are still places on this course. The course is suitable for Leaders who have not had experience of taking young people away. It includes a session on the new lightweight expedition permit. This will be the last course until 2009.

Applications to Margaret Bye via the County website www.cycscouts.org.uk

Beaver Leader needed for Alwoodley and St Stephens Beavers

At the moment we have 2 leaders who are both leaving in July we have given the parents 7 months notice but have not had anyone want to take on the job. The group runs on a Friday night 5.30pm - 6.30pm we have 18 beavers now and a waiting list of about 20. If Interested please contact Michele Stallworthy Beaver Leader Alwoodley and St Stephens

The Giant Sleepover

Calling all Scouts across the UK – join us for The Giant Sleepover which will take place in venues all across the UK on the night of 14 June 2008.



Each year thousands of Scouts take part in this fun, truly giant event, which is aimed at 5 - 16 year olds. In 2008, over 50,000 young people are expected to take part in over 1,000 sleepover venues.

- ❖ Every participating young person receives a 'goody bag' bursting with fun things to do.
- ❖ Every sleepover venue receives a 'Treasure Chest' of games, prizes and activities to use on the night.
- ❖ Plus a complementary breakfast for everyone courtesy of Kellogg's!

In 2008, all groups participating in The Giant Sleepover will have the opportunity to raise money for Save the Children, the event's nominated charity, in addition to charities of their choice. Further details available from the website www.scouts.org.uk/sleepover/

Safety Advisory Notice: Pierceable Gas Cartridges

Scout Insurance Services Ltd monitors every accident notification made under Association rules. One of the reasons for this is to identify patterns or trends in order to inform and advise the Movement.

Over the last few years, there have been a number of serious incidents involving the use of gas cookers and lanterns which employ pierceable cartridges.

Equipment of this type often referred to as 'Bluet' were amongst the earliest examples of personal, lightweight cookers and lanterns. As such, much of this equipment held by Groups may be over thirty years old.

Over the last ten years or so, the old pierceable cartridge has been superseded by lightweight aluminium cartridges which incorporate a screw or clip valve fitting. These can be fitted and removed repeatedly, with a minimal risk of the escape of gas.

The old type of cartridge was, as its name suggests, pierced by a spike in the appliance. Once pierced, the canister could not safely be removed until empty.

The main risks with this older type equipment, are age, lack of familiarity and misuse. Examples are:-

- ❖ Extracting a 'spent' cartridge and attempting to 'screw' in a replacement without removing the burner assembly.
- ❖ Screwing in a burner assembly 'cross threaded' which pierces the cartridge without being able to screw right down to form a seal.
- ❖ Equipment which is old and in which the rubber seal has become damaged or perished, preventing a good, gas tight, seal.

In all these cases, leaking gas can be the result and, due the lack of a valve, the leak cannot be stopped.

The results, in a number of Scout cases, have been serious burn injuries to users and those nearby. In France, as a direct result of repeated serious injuries, attempts are being made to prohibit the manufacture of pierceable cartridges.

For these reasons, The Scout Association is taking the unusual step in strongly advising Groups to cease using equipment which employs pierceable cartridges.

It is appreciated that such advice will require Groups to replace older equipment and that this has cost implications. However, the evidence of risk is overwhelming.

It is accepted that equipment cannot be replaced overnight and that some of this type may have to be used in the short term. Where this cannot be avoided, Leaders are advised to check, carefully, to ensure that seals are in good condition and should record the inspection. In addition, use of such equipment should be closely supervised and, above all, cartridge changes and assembly should only be undertaken by adults, in the open and away from sources of ignition.

All cooking and lighting equipment utilising flammable gases or liquids are potentially dangerous but, with care, can be used safely. However, pierceable cartridge equipment has been shown to present unique hazards, not only within Scouting but within the general public as well.

Groups are recommended to cease using such equipment and to implement a policy of replacement within twelve months at the latest.

Diary Dates

May 2008

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
7th	Beaver Leaders Meeting	877 Scott Hall Road	20:00
10th - 11th	Apex Challenge	Sherwood Pines Forest Park	18:30
11th	Cub Football Competition	Gledhow School	????
12th	Explorer Leaders Meeting	5 Edgerton Road	20:00
12th	Appointments Committee	7 Summerhill Gardens	19:30
17th	Beaver Fun & Sports Day	Bramhope	10:00
18th	Cub Knockout Competition	Gledhow School	????

June 2008

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
2nd	District AGM	Wike	20:00
4th	Six Dales Committee	St Chads Parish Centre	19:45
11th	Cub Leaders Meeting	????	20:30
12th	Appointments Committee	7 Summerhill Gardens	19:30
15th	Cub Go-Kart Racing	Roundhay Park	????
16th	District Executive	99 The Drive	20:00
16th	Explorer Leaders Meeting	Meal Out - TBA	????
19th	Cub Athletes Badge	Allerton Grange School	????
20th	Scout Ultimate Frisbee Event	Roundhay Park	????
20th - 22nd	Nights Away Course	????	????
21st	Beaver Outing	Re arranged for September	????

July 2008

Date	Meeting	Location	Time
2nd	Beaver Leaders Meal Out	Olive Tree, Far Headingley	????
4th - 6th	District Cub Camp	Wike	
7th	SL's Meeting	????	20:00
10th	District Team	34 Sunningdale Avenue	20:00
14th	GSL's Meeting	Wike	20:00
25th	Kenya Expedition Starts		

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